

Shepherdstown is a dream for the writers of those plays. Over the years, both up-and-coming playwrights and big names—like Sam Shepard and Joyce Carol Oates—have premiered works there. That's in large part due to the festival's hard-working founder, Ed Herendeen. Herendeen founded the festival 20 years ago in partnership with Shepherd University. That first season they did three plays and sold about 2,000 tickets. Today, they do five professional plays and sell more than 11,000 tickets. What's unusual about the festival is that Herendeen says he's never tempted to do a popular play in order to draw more people. The audience that the festival has developed really is expecting it to do new plays.

In addition to its first-class performances, the festival offers lectures and discussion to enhance the audience's understanding of the arts. Over the last 7 years, in partnership with the Appalachian Education Initiative, AEI, the festival has hosted the Annual Elizabeth Francis Teacher Training Institute, a professional development program for high school teachers from West Virginia and other States across the region. This is an opportunity to learn hands on from CATF's professional theater artists. Participants are immersed in the art and craft of theater, gaining insight into acting, production, stage management, marketing, and script analysis. This year, participants will attend every play in the festival's 20th anniversary season, and have a chance to meet and talk with actors, producers, and technicians while receiving graduate level credits for their coursework.

It is hard to overstate the extraordinary economic impact this festival has on the entire region. The annual event brings people from more than 20 States to West Virginia to enjoy theater, immerse themselves in our community, and explore our beautiful natural surroundings. And as the crowds fill our theaters, restaurants, shops, and hotels, their support creates employment and boosts local businesses.

In recent years, festival goers have contributed \$3.2 million to the local economy with the average patron spending \$132 on top of the price of tickets.

Today, I congratulate and thank Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley, Ed Herendeen, and their talented team for bringing such a truly outstanding theater festival to the stage every year. The Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown is an enormous source of pride for me and for every West Virginian.●

TRIBUTE TO VERMONT'S SOLDIERS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as we celebrate the 147th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, I celebrate the contributions Vermont's brave citizens made to keep the Union whole.

As the Civil War began, President Lincoln sent a message to Governor Erastus Fairbanks: "Washington is in

grave danger. What may we expect of Vermont?" The Governor's reply: "Vermont will do its full duty."

Fairbanks called a special session of the State legislature and told lawmakers, "The United States government must be sustained and the rebellion suppressed, at whatever cost of men and treasure."

Vermonters fulfilled that pledge.

During the Battle of Gettysburg, waged from July 1 to July 3, 1863, Vermonters fought heroically. Under the command of GEN George Stannard, Vermonters "broke the back of Pickett's charge," helping lead the Union Army to victory in the decisive battle, says George Gunlock, a local historian in my State.

Another Vermonter, William Wells, won the Medal of Honor for leading his men in a daring cavalry charge against Confederate lines during the Battle of Gettysburg. A statue was built in his honor in both Gettysburg and in Burlington's Battery Park. Wells, who rose to the rank of general, served as Vermont's adjutant general after the Civil War.

But it not so much the officers, but the brave men who served under them, that we most remember, even at this historical distance.

Despite its small size, Vermont was a major contributor to the Union Army.

In all, 33,200 Vermonters fought in the war, or more than 10 percent of the State's population at the time. Twenty-eight thousand Vermonters served in the State militia and another 5,000 enlisted for Federal service during the Civil War. At the time, the State's estimated population was 320,000.

According to historians, nearly half of the men in Vermont who were of military age signed on to serve their Nation.

Great sacrifice was exacted from these brave volunteers. Vermonters suffered 5,194 deaths, during the Civil War, including 1,832 Vermonters killed or mortally wounded in battle, 2,747 who died of disease or other causes and 615 who died while prisoners. More than 2,200 Vermonters were taken prisoner during the war.

The history of the Vermonters who fought during the Civil War lives on. The Vermont National Guard's 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, now deployed in Afghanistan, uses a famous line from the Civil War—"Put the Vermonters ahead"—as its motto today. The line comes from a famous order by Union GEN John Sedgwick.

When the battle of Gettysburg began on July 1, 1863, Sedgwick's soldiers were in Maryland, 35 miles from the battlefield. "At dusk orders came to move, but it was about 10 o'clock at night before the column started for Gettysburg. It was on this occasion that General Sedgwick issued his famous order: "Put the Vermonters ahead and keep the column well closed up."

As we recognize the dedication of Vermont's soldiers in the Civil War, so

should we recognize the dedication and bravery of Vermont's soldiers today, when more than 1,500 members of the Vermont National Guard are serving in the war zone in Afghanistan. Approaching July 4th, the day which marks our Nation's independence, I want to celebrate the courage of those brave men from Vermont who fought to preserve the Nation in the Civil War, and the brave men and women who are answering our Nation's call today in the mountains and valleys of Afghanistan.●

TRIBUTE TO ALICE KUNDERT

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 90th birthday of Alice Kundert, a valued public servant in my home State of South Dakota.

Alice's public service career began when she was appointed as the deputy superintendent of schools in Campbell County. She served on the town board, school board, and later took on the roles as Campbell County's clerk of courts and registrar of deeds.

She was convinced by a group of teenagers that she counseled to run for political office at the State level. The first governmental office Alice held was as State Auditor for three 2-year terms followed by two 4-year terms as Secretary of State. She was appointed by Governor Mickelson to the Department of Education and Cultural Affairs which allowed her to travel the state teaching children about the history of South Dakota. The last political office Alice held was her 1990 election as a State representative which she served for two 2-year terms.

I would like to send my heartfelt congratulations to Alice on her 90th birthday and to thank her for her years of dedicated public service to the State of South Dakota.●

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA LUTZ

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Patricia Lutz, who has been named the 2010 South Dakota School Bus Driver of the Year. The award is selected annually by the South Dakota School Transportation Association. I commend Patty for her commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment for the young people of South Dakota.

Patty and her husband Loren live near Webster. She is employed by Harlow's School Bus Sales and Services and currently drives a route for the Webster School District. Patty recently completed her 30th year of driving a school bus. Along with Webster, she has also driven for the Conde, Gettysburg, and Bristol School Districts. In addition to her school bus responsibilities, she has also served as a school librarian, substitute teacher, and cheerleading advisor.

Patty serves as a shining example of the outstanding faculty and staff members that serve school districts across South Dakota. Always willing to go above and beyond, Patty is committed